

Message Text

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ACTION EA-13

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LIMDIS

JOINT STATE/USAID

BANGKOK PASS RED

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG, EAID, PINS, RP

SUBJECT: U.S. INVOLVEMENT IN MINDANAO

REF: A. STATE 243099

B. MANILA 3260

1. WE HAVE AGREED WITH MELCHOR TO SUSPEND CONSIDERATION ANY NEW AID PROJECTS IN MUSLIM AREAS NOT PREVIOUSLY AGREED. HAVE ALSO ASKED WHETHER GOP WISHES ANY CHANGE IN PRESENTLY PLANNED RURAL ELECTRIFICATION, FOOD FOR PEACE, PDAP OR OTHER ONGOING ACTIVITIES THERE. MELCHOR ASSURES US THESE ACTIVITIES VERY MUCH DESIRED AND SHOULD PROCEED.

2. ONLY FULLY ACTIVE PDAP PROVINCE IN MUSLIM AREA IS LANA DEL SUR WITH DWANE HAMMER LOCATED IN MARAWI CITY

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AS ONLY AID CONTRACT OFFICER STATIONED IN MUSLIM AREA.

MELCHOR SPECIFICALLY REQUESTED US LEAVE HAMMER IN PLACE. PDAP FOR LANA O IS IMPLEMENTING STANDARD PDAP PROJECT MIX WITH EXTRA EMPHASIS ON TRAINING PROVINCIAL STAFF, UPGRADING EDUCATION, COMMUNAL IRRIGATION, FEEDER ROADS, AG PRODUCTIVITY, ETC. RURAL ELECTRIFICATION IS BEGINNING TO LIGHT SOME LANA O BARRIOS.

3. WE ALSO HAVE OUTSTANDING COMMITMENT TO ASSIST SECOND MUSLIM PROVINCE THROUGH PDAP AND HAVE HELPED INITIATE SOME PRELIMINARY TRAINING OF PROVINCIAL DEVELOPMENT STAFF FROM FORMER NORTH COTABATO PROVINCE. HOWEVER, THROUGH MUTUAL DECISION WITH PDAP MANILA STAFF, ARE DEFERRING FURTHER SECOND PROVINCE ACTIVITY UNTIL SECURITY IMPROVES AND NEW PROVINCIAL BOUNDARIES ARE FINALIZED FOR THREE NEW PROVINCES BEING FORMED FROM SUBDIVISION OF OLD NORTH COTABATO. ONLY ONE OF THESE NEWLY EMERGING PROVINCES, MAGUINDANAO UNDER GOVERNOR DATUMANONG, WILL REMAIN MUSLIM. THE OTHER TWO, NORTH COTABATO AND SULTAN KURDARAT, WILL BE HEAVILY CHRISTIAN. WE DO NOT EXPECT EARLY PDAP ACTIVATION IN SECOND MUSLIM PROVINCE.

4. FOOD FOR PEACE COMMODITIES AND OTHER VOLAG INPUTS CONTINUE TO FLOW TO MUSLIM AREAS FOR EMERGENCY FEEDING REFUGEES, FOOD FOR WORK AND NUTRITION PROJECTS, ALL UNDER ADMINISTRATION OF U.S. VOLAGS ASSISTED BY DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WELFARE AND LOCAL COORDINATING AGENCIES SUCH AS MINDANAO DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (MDA) AND SPECIAL PROGRAM OF ASSISTANCE FOR RETURNED EVACUEES (SPARE). LATTER IS TRI-SECTORAL BODY (RELIGIOUS, CIVIC AND GOVERNMENT INCLUDING MILITARY CIVIC ACTION) CHAIRED IN THE FIELD BY ERNESTO ABOITEZ. OUR PRESENCE IN AREA IS BEING KEPT TO BARE MINIMUM IN KEEPING WITH CURRENT EMBASSY IMPOSED LIMITATIONS ON U.S. OFFICIAL TRAVEL TO MUSLIM AREAS. SINCE CRS IS LEADING U.S. VOLAG THIS ACTIVITY WE URGING THEM STRENGTHEN THEIR NON-U.S. TECHNICAL STAFF COMPETENCE TO FURTHER REDUCE USAID SUPERVISION REQUIREMENTS.

5. BELIEVE RESOURCES CURRENTLY AVAILABLE IN FIELD FROM FOREIGN DONOR AND GOP SOURCES ADEQUATE TO MEET CURRENT, HOPEFULLY TRANSITIONAL, NEEDS FOR RELIEF AND REHABILITATION

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LEADING TO SUCH LONGER RANGE DEVELOPMENT PROGRESS AS IMPROVING STABILITY AND SECURITY WILL PERMIT. SOME OF THESE LONG-TERM DEVELOPMENT NEEDS ARE ALREADY BEING ADDRESSED SUCH AS MAJOR INFRASTRUCTURE HIGHWAY CONSTRUCTIONS FROM COTABATO CITY TO DIGOS UNDER A WORLD BANK LOAN AND COTABATO CITY TO GENERAL SANTOS CITY UNDER AN ADB LOAN; AND MAJOR HIGHWAY CONSTRUCTION PLANNED BY AUSTRIAN AID FROM EARLY NEXT YEAR IN ZAMBOANGA DEL SUR.

6. CONSTRUCTION OF THE PARTIALLY ENERGIZED LANA DEL SUR
RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE IS PROCEEDING AS RAPIDLY AS
AVAILABILITY OF POLES AND LINE HARDWARE PERMITS. SEVERAL
OTHER RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES ARE PLANNED IN OR NEAR
MUSLIM AREAS. ENGINEERING DESIGN IS COMPLETED OR ON-GOING
IN LANA DEL NORTE, ZAMBOANGA DEL NORTE AND ZAMBOANGA DEL
SUR. FEASIBILITY STUDIES HAVE BEEN COMPLETED FOR COOPERATIVES
TO BE LOCATED IN SULTAN KUDARAT AND SULU.
SULLIVAN

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NNN

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